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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: LOS, UN

SUBJ: LOS: CONVERSATION WITH UN UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL ZULETA
REF: USUN 4087

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR LEARSON, ASSISTANT LEGAL ADVISER
OXMAN AND MISSOFF HIRSCH MET WITH UN DERSECRETARY GENERAL
ZULETA AND DAVID HALL OCTOBER 18 FOR A REVIEW OF A) LOS AT
THE 31ST UNGA, B) PARTICIPATION AT THE PACEM IN MARIBUS
CONFERENCE AND C) PLANS FOR INTERSESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS IN
GENEVA IN FEBRUARY 1977. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
DISCUSSION. END SUMMARY.

2. LOS AT THE 31ST UNGA: ZULETA OPENED THE DISCUSSION
BY NOTING THAT ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE PLENARY SPEECHES HAD
EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTAINING AN LOS CONVENTION.
MOST OF THE SPEAKERS, HOWEVER, WERE FROM GDS OR STATES WITH
SPECIAL INTERESTS WHILE VERY FEW OF THEM WERE FROM DEVELOPING
COASTAL STATES. ZULETA SUGGESTED SARDONICALLY THAT PERHAPS
THE LATTER BELIEVE THEY HAVE ALREADY ATTAINED MOST OF THEIR
OBJECTIVES.

3. PACEM IN MARIBUS CONFERENCE: ZULETA CONFIRMED
THAT IN ALL LIKELIHOOD HE WOULD ATTEND THE OCTOBER 25-27
ALGIERS MEETING, PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS PLANS AND ARRANGEMENTS
FOR INTERSESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS WITH EVENSON, ENGO AND
OTHER MAJOR PERSONALITIES INVOLVED IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS.
HE WOULD EMPHASIZE TO THEM THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE
INTERSESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS TO PREPARE FOR THE SPRING
1977 CONFERENCE, STRESSING THE NEED FOR PARTICIPATION BY A
LARGE NUMBER OF DEVELOPING STATES INCLUDING THE ARABS AND
AFRICANS. HE WOULD ALSO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF
PARTICIPATION AT THE LEVEL OF HEADS OF DELEGATION. AMB.
LEARSON SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES WANTS MEANINGFUL
INTERSESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS AND IS VERY WILLING TO PARTICIPATE
IN THESE DISCUSSIONS. HE ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF
A GOOD REPRESENTATION.

4. ZULETA OBSERVED THAT THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE

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GENEVA INTERSESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS COULD BE DEVELOPED AT THE ALGIERS MEETING. HE WANTED PARTICULARLY TO TALK WITH EVENSON WHO WAS TAKING THE LEAD IN THE GENEVA CONSULTATIONS IN THE LAST THREE WEEKS OF FEBRUARY, 1977. RECALLING THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED IN SEPTEMBER THAT INTERSESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE OUTSIDE THE FORMAL LOS CONFERENCE FRAMEWORK, HE SAID THAT IN ORDER TO DISPEL ANY IMPRESSION THAT THESE WERE COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN DISGUISE, THE UN SECRETARIAT SUPPORT WOULD BE DIFFERENT IN COMPOSITION FROM THAT PROVIDED TO THE COMMITTEES DURING THE CONFERENCE. MOREOVER, ALL SUBSTANTIVE LOS SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL WOULD BE INVOLVED IN COMMITTEE ONE ISSUES DURING THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE SECRETARIAT ROLE IN COMMITTEE ONE AT THE SPRING 1977 SESSION. OXMAN NOTED THAT THE US UNDERSTOOD FROM AMERASINGHE'S STATEMENT THAT THE INTERSESSIONAL GENEVA CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE CONDUCTED BY THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF HEADS OF DELEGATION.

5. THE GENEVA INTERSESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS: TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF GENEVA PARTICIPANTS, ZULETA SAID HE ANTICIPATED THAT THE LATIN AMERICANS, INDIA, IRAN, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND SRI LANKA WOULD ATTEND. AFRICAN AND ARAB PARTICIPATION WAS LESS CLEAR.

6. LEARSON NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING AT LEAST FIVE KEY ARAB STATES TO GENEVA. OXMAN, AFTER COMMENTING ON THE INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN ARAB POSITIONS IN COMMITTEES ONE AND TWO, OBSERVED THAT THE ARAB APPROACH WAS VERY UNCLEAR. THE ARABS APPEAR TO HAVE ALLOWED ALGERIA, WHOSE APPROACH IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS, TO TAKE THE LEAD IN ADVOCATING A TOUGH STAND ON THE ENTERPRISE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CRITICIZING THE ECONOMIC ZONE WHICH MOST OF THEM WANT. IT WAS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE WITH COUNTRIES WHICH WANT TO KEEP ALL THEIR OPTIONS OPEN. ZULETA OBSERVED THAT THE ARABS SEEMED TO BE PLAYING FOR TIME, AND AGREED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO PIN DOWN THEIR OBJECTIVES. ONE OF THEM, HOWEVER, MAY BE TO "BUY OUT THE ENTERPRISE" AND SIMULTANEOUSLY ENTER INTO EQUITY JOINT VENTURES WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES TO ACQUIRE A LARGE SHARING OF NICKEL RESOURCES. HALL ADDED THAT INTER-ARAB AND ARAB/AFRICAN RELATIONS ALSO WERE

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FACTORS AFFECTING ARAB POSITIONS IN LOS.
7. AS REGARDS AFRICAN PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA,
ZULETA NOTED THAT TANZANIA, NIGERIA, KENYA, ZAIRE,
ZAMBIA, GABON, MOROCCO, ALGERIA AND MAURITANIA SHOULD
BE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. TANZANIA COULD PLAY A KEY ROLE IN
BRINGING THE AFRICAN STATES, PARTICULARLY THE GDS
WITH TANGIBLE INTERESTS AT STAKE, TO
TAKE PART. NYERERE'S INFLUENCE THROUGHOUT AFRICA AT PRESENT
WAS CONSIDERABLE, AND WARIOBA HAD ALREADY PLAYED AN
IMPORTANT ROLE IN ENABLING THE AFRICANS TO PLAY A POSITIVE
ROLE IN COMMITTEE TWO. OXMAN COUNTERED THAT TANZANIA
HAD NEVER DONE MORE THAN ACQUIESCE IN DECISIONS TO WHICH
THE OTHER HAD AGREED. AT THE CLOSE OF THE CONVERSATION
ZULETA AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT IN HIS DISCUSSION IN ALGERIA
NEXT WEEK HE WOULD STRESS THE NEED FOR HIGH-LEVEL
PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA MEETINGS. SCRANTON

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